



## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

# Frequently Asked Questions - and Answers

## *Five-Year Review of Klamath Lost River and Shortnose Sucker Populations*

### **Q. What action is the Fish and Wildlife Service taking?**

**A.** The Service is undertaking a five-year review for the Klamath Lost River and Shortnose suckers (Klamath suckers). This review ensures that the listing classification of a species as either threatened or endangered is still accurate. It is a verification process with a definitive outcome: either a change in classification is recommended or it isn't. The review considers the best scientific and commercial information that has become available since the original listing determination, such as:

- Species biology including but not limited to population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics and genetics;
- Habitat conditions including but not limited to amount, distribution and suitability;
- Conservation measures implemented to benefit the species;
- Status and trends of threats to the species;
- Other new information, data, or corrections including but not limited to changes in taxonomy or nomenclature, identification of erroneous information contained in the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; and improved analytical methods.

### **Q. Why is the Service doing a five-year review for the Klamath suckers now?**

**A.** The Lost River and shortnose suckers were listed in 1988. Research and monitoring programs and conservation actions have been carried out and are ongoing by Federal as well as State, private, and tribal entities. As a result new information is available. Although it has been made public throughout the past decade - and the Service has continued to use the best available data in accordance with the Endangered Species Act, this new information has not been fully evaluated under the ESA's five-year review requirement.

### **Q. Does the review process lessen protections for the Klamath suckers?**

**A.** No. All of the existing protections for suckers will remain in place. If any changes to the suckers' listing status are recommended after the review is completed, they will be made only after a formal rule-making process that includes public review and comment. The Service will open a 90-day comment review period to seek information for the five-year review. Details will be forthcoming.

### **Q. What will the five-year review entail?**

**A.** The review will consider information that has become available since the original listing determination's last status review, such as population trend data; effects of threats on long-term survival, adequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms and conservation measures; and management and conservation planning information.

The review also will assess: a) whether new information suggests that the species' population is increasing, declining, or stable; b) whether existing threats are increasing, the same, reduced, or eliminated; c) if there are any new threats; and d) if any new information or analysis calls into question any of the conclusions in the original listing determination as to the species' classification.

**Q. What is the outcome of a five-year review?**

**A.** The Service will recommend whether or not a change is warranted in the Federal classification of Klamath suckers. Possible changes include, a recommendation that the species be reclassified from endangered to threatened, or that the species no longer needs protection and should be delisted. Such a recommendation would not automatically result in a change in classification. Any change would require a separate rule-making process, including public review and comment, as defined in section 4(a) of the Endangered Species Act. No change in classification would occur until the completion of that process.

**Q. Who is responsible for doing a five-year review?**

**A.** The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce are ultimately responsible for conducting the five-year reviews of listed species. This responsibility has been delegated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA-Fisheries to assess the species for which they have jurisdiction. Klamath suckers are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Q. When will the five-year review be completed?**

**A.** The review is expected to be completed in 2005 or early 2006.

**Q. How does the Service determine whether a species is endangered or threatened?**

**A.** Under the ESA, the term "endangered species" means any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. The term "threatened species" means any species that is at risk of becoming an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Section 4(a)(1) of the ESA establishes that one or more of the following five factors determine whether a species is endangered or threatened.

- (1) The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
- (2) Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
- (3) Disease or predation;
- (4) The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or
- (5) Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

The Service's assessment of these factors is required, under section 4(b)(1) of the ESA, to be based on the best scientific and commercial data available.

**Write or call:**

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